



# CITY OF NOME

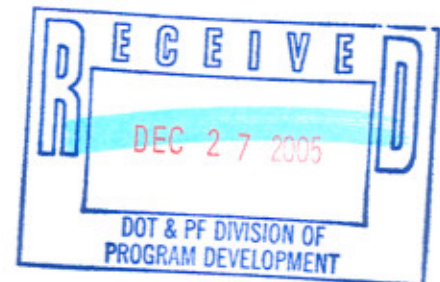
*Celebrating 100 Years of Gold Rush History*

Incorporated April 9, 1901

December 15, 2005

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Statewide Planning Office  
Division of Program Development  
Alaska Department of Transportation  
3132 Channel Drive, Suite 200  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1798



Subject: 2006 – 2008 STIP Comments

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft 2006 – 2008 STIP. The Nome Common Council has reviewed the STIP document and wishes to express our concerns about the draft STIP.

First, we note the general lack of projects in the Western District Office area that serves Nome and the surrounding communities. The Nome Common Council has adopted resolutions of support for enhancements/improvements to the Glacier Creek Road, the Kougarok Road and the Pilgrim Hot Springs Road. All of these roads support economic growth for this area in the form of access into the country for tourists, mineral development and recreational and subsistence activities. None of these projects are on the STIP.

Second, the format of the STIP, while much improved, could use additional work. An index with page references would ease the ability to quickly find projects within regions and communities. A summary spreadsheet, similar to the one used in the past, would provide a good format for quick review of projects considered in the STIP.

Third, while not necessarily a STIP issue, but directly relating to it, is the lack of support of state infrastructure. This is reflected in the general lack of funds for maintenance of existing roads. Generally speaking, the roads on the Seward Peninsula under State responsibility have slowly blown away, settled into the tundra, and are generally losing the war with entropy because of the lack of State maintenance funds. I would venture that most of the roads now could not be maintained as they have deteriorated to the point where they need to be reconstructed. And as we have seen before, and commented on in the past, these roads can not score the prerequisite points in the STIP/PEB process to be considered for funding. A slow death for roads built in this area before Statehood.

The Nome Common Council has commented on problems with the STIP process in the past. It is very disappointing to see the lack of State-funded projects to protect these important State assets. The roads of the Seward Peninsula are an economic engine for many people both in Nome and around the State.

We thank you for time and consideration of our comments.

Respectfully,  
On Behalf of the Nome Common Council  
City of Nome



Denise Michels  
Mayor

Cc: Nome Common Council  
Rep. Richard Foster  
Sen. Donny Olson  
Donna Gardino, AkDOT/ Northern Region